

REMARKS

Examiner Interview

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the courtesy of a telephone interview extended by Examiner David Lam to Applicant's agent, Lois D. Cartier, on May 22, 2006. During the interview, no exhibit was shown and no demonstration was conducted. Claims 1 and 19 were discussed. It was agreed that Applicant would submit amendments similar to the above, and the Examiner would reconsider the claim rejections in light of the amendments.

Summary of Claim Status

Claims 1-23 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 19 are rejected for the reasons discussed below.

Claims 2-18 and 20-23 are objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if properly rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this acknowledgement of patentable subject matter.

Applicant requests the favorable reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the pending rejections, in light of the following remarks.

Rejections Under 35 USC 102(a)

Claims 1 and 19 are rejected as being anticipated by Madurawe (U.S. 2005/0091630, hereinafter Madurawe). The Examiner therefore argues that Madurawe teaches every element of every claim, either expressly or by implication. (MPEP 706.02, pg. 700-20, provides the following summary of the relevant standard: "For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present.") Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 1 recites, in part: "applying a gate to source voltage to the transistor that under-drives the transistor". The Office Action asserts that Madurawe discloses such a method step in Fig. 4B, page 6, and the related disclosure. Applicant sees no such disclosure, either in Fig. 4B or the related disclosure. Madurawe certainly discloses a

memory cell 450 driving the gate of a transistor 410 (see Fig. 4B), but makes no mention at all of the memory cell having the ability to under-drive the transistor.

For an explanation of the term "under-drive" as it is used in the present application, please see paragraphs 0010 and 0011 of the application as filed. Clearly, Madurawe neither teaches nor suggests the under-driving of transistors as claimed by Applicant.

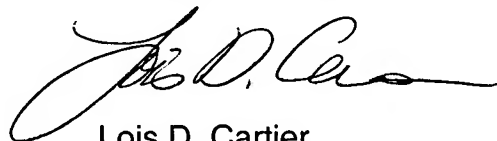
However, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to clarify the invention as claimed. When the transistor is "under-driven" (as the term is used in the present application), the sub-threshold leakage of the transistor is suppressed. Madurawe neither teaches nor suggests under-driving a transistor to suppress the sub-threshold leakage of the transistor. Therefore, Claim 1 is allowable over Madurawe.

Claim 19 is rejected "for the same reason as set forth above". However, Claim 19 recites: "wherein the value can under-drive the transistor in its off state", which is neither taught nor suggested by Madurawe. However, Applicant has amended Claim 19 in a fashion similar to the amendment of Claim 1, to clarify the claimed invention. For at least these reasons, Claim 19 is allowable over Madurawe.

Conclusion

All claims should be now be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If any action other than allowance is contemplated by the Examiner, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicant's agent, Lois D. Cartier, at 720-652-3733.

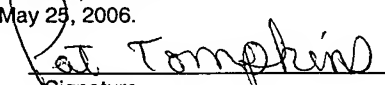
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as **first class mail** in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 29, 2006.

Pat Tompkins
Name


Signature